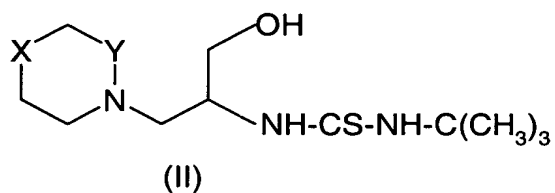


CLAIMS

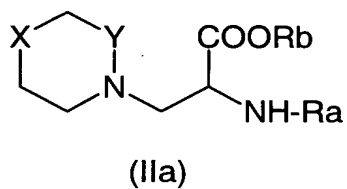
We claim:

- 1) A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula (II)

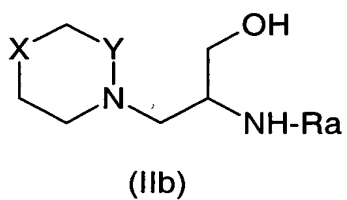


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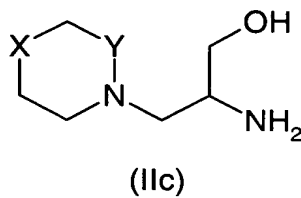
, comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIa):



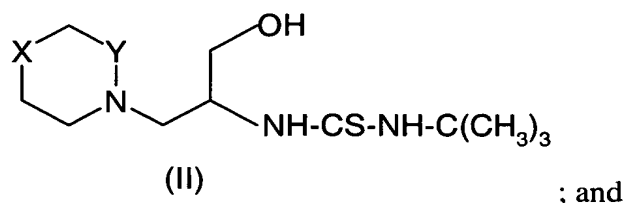
with a reducing agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIb):



- 10 reacting said compound of formula (IIb) with a deprotecting agent to obtain a compound of formula (IIc):

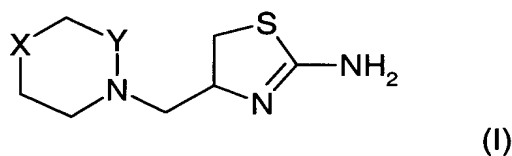


reacting said compound of formula (IIc) with *tert*-butylisothiocyanate to obtain a compound of formula (II):



wherein Ra is a protecting group of the amine function and Rb is a protecting group of the acid function.

- 2) A method of treating an illness, which involves an abnormal production of nitric oxide (NO) by induction of an inducible NO-synthase (NOS-2), comprising administering to a patient in need of such a treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



wherein

either Y is (CH₂) and X is chosen from the following group: O, NH, N-(C₁-C₄)alkyl, N-benzyl, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl, N-5-pyrimidyl, S, SO, SO₂, CH₂ and CHPh;

or Y is (C=O) and X is chosen from the following group: NH, N-phenyl, N-(2-pyridyl), N-(3-pyridyl), N-(4-pyridyl), N-2-pyrimidyl and N-5-pyrimidyl;

wherein the (C₁-C₄)alkyl contains 1 to 4 carbon atoms in a straight or branched chain; or

a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 5 3) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is chosen from the following compounds:
- 4-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine,
- 4-(piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, and
- 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine, or
- 10 a racemic mixture, an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture thereof, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 4) The method according to claim 2, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 4-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-4,5-dihydro-1,3-thiazol-2-ylamine or a
- 15 racemic mixture, an enantiomer, or a tautomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 5) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, cerebral, focal or global ischemia,
- 20 cerebral or spinal trauma, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, migraine, depression, schizophrenia, anxiety and epilepsy.
- 6) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is Parkinson's disease.

- 7) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is caused by inflammatory components.
- 5 8) The method according to claim 2, wherein the illness is caused by the growth of a tumor.